



Baroness Berridge of the Vale of Catmose

House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW

INVITATION
International Panel of Parliamentarians
for Freedom of Religion or Belief
Oslo Conference – 7th – 9th November

I am writing in my capacity as chairman of the British All Party Parliamentary Group on International Freedom of Religion or Belief, which works to raise awareness of abuses of the rights enshrined in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights worldwide.

For the past year we have been working alongside the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom to create an **International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief** (IPP). With the global environment for freedom of religion or belief continuing to deteriorate, the aim of the IPP is to foster networks between Parliamentarians from different jurisdictions who are seeking to advocate for Article 18 rights across the world, and to allow co-ordination of efforts to create change.

Our first action as a group was to gather together a number of Parliamentarians who are committed to freedom of religion or belief for all to discuss how to increase co-operation. This meeting took place in Oxford in June, and was attended by Parliamentarians from Turkey, Canada, Norway, Brazil, Sweden and Britain, as well as two USCIRF commissioners. The group discussed further collaboration, and agreed a charter to outline its commitment to Article 18, a copy of which is attached.

I am writing to invite you to join us for the group's second meeting, which will take place in Oslo, between Friday 7th and Sunday 9th November. We anticipate that the event will include an address by the Norwegian Foreign Secretary, and discussion of the practical and concrete ways in which international Parliamentarians can work together to promote freedom of religion or belief around the world.

Please Reply To

House Of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW
T: 020 7219 7293 E: carterkj@parliament.uk

If you are interested in attending, I would encourage you to look at the attached charter on freedom of religion or belief, which forms the basis of the group. We are looking for Parliamentarians with an absolutely commitment to this human right, vested in the individual and including the right to freely convert or eschew religion altogether. If you share our conviction we would be delighted to welcome you to the conference.

For further details, please don't hesitate to contact Kay Carter, my Head of Communications, at carterkj@parliament.uk. If you would like to join us but funding for transport or accommodation would mean this is not possible, please contact us as we may be able to help some delegates with these costs.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Berridge of the Vale of Catmose